CLAIMS

1. A method of processing image data, the image data including a first subset of the image data and a second subset of the image data, comprising:

identifying in the image data a hole, a hole being an area associated with the first subset, the hole being substantially surrounded by an island associated with the second subset, and the island being substantially surrounded by a greater area associated with the first subset.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising

altering the image data so that the hole becomes associated with the second subset.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising

applying a simplification algorithm to the image data; and

suppressing alteration of image data associated with the hole during the applying step.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising

altering the image data if the hole is within a predetermined size range.

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5. The method of claim 1, further comprising

maintaining, for at least a subset of image data associated with the hole, a data structure including a variable indicative of whether the image data has been previously altered.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising

maintaining, for at least a subset of image data associated with the island, a data structure including a variable indicative of whether the image data has been previously altered.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising

maintaining, for the image data, a set of window data structures associated with windows in the image.

8. The method of claim 7, each of the window data structures including a history variable indicative of whether the image data associated with the window structure has been previously altered.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising

for two adjacent runs in a scanline in the image data, comparing the history variable of the window data structure associated with each run.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising

if the history variable of the window data structure associated with each adjacent portion indicates that both window data structures have previously been altered, reversing alteration of one of the adjacent portions of the scanline.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the image data is associated with an MRC selector plane.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the greater area is substantially surrounded by a more-greater area associated with the second subset.

13. A method of processing image data, the image data describing runs and windows in an image, comprising:

maintaining, for the image data, a set of window data structures associated with windows in the image, each of the window data structures including a history variable indicative of whether the image data associated therewith has been previously altered.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising

for two adjacent runs in a scanline in the image data, comparing the history variable of the window data structure associated with each run.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising

if the history variable of the window data structure associated with each adjacent run indicates that both window data structures have previously been altered, reversing alteration of one of the adjacent portions of the scanline.

16. The method of claim 12, wherein the image data is associated with an MRC selector plane.